

by Bob Saydlowski, Jr.

ODD-RHYTHMS IN 4/4

A 4/4 rhythm does not necessarily have to be "straight-ahead". The following exercises are examples of odd rhythms in 4/4 time. Varied accent placements make a common eighth-note line sound more complicated and unstructured than it really is. This is accomplished by subdividing into groups of two and threes, accenting on the beginning note of each group. (Of course, accents will sometimes not fall on the "strong part" of the beat.)

Exercises 1 - 3 are to be played on the snare drum or pad first, mainly to get the "feel" of your sticking and accents. They are then transferred onto the drumkit, using the same sticking, and adding a bass drum pattern.

Exercises 4 - 5 are created for drumkit with accents divided 3 - 3 - 3. Note that the hi-hat foot plays all four quarter notes.

Exercises 6 is made up entirely of sixteenth notes. The accent grouping is 2 - 3 - 2 - 3 - 3 - 2 - (2), and then reversed. The cycle is complete after two bars.

Experiment with these exercises to find the tempo you think sounds best.



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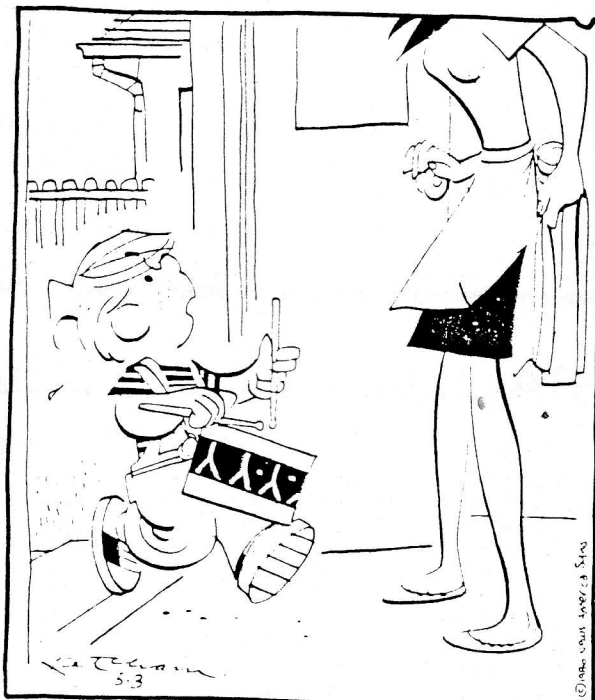
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